

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A gas bag for an airbag module for protecting a vehicle occupant, comprising:

a gas bag envelope;

at least one initially closed closable outflow and/or overflow orifice in the gas bag envelope; and

at least one control band arranged to, during the inflation of the gas bag, when a predetermined state of deployment of the gas bag is reached, open the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice, or close the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice, the at least one control band having one end and another end,

wherein the one end of the at least one control band is fastened to the gas bag envelope in a region of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice, and the other end of the at least one control band is connected to the gas bag envelope in such a way that, when the predetermined state of deployment is reached, the at least one control band:

(a) slips a part of the gas bag envelope, which is located in the region of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice into the gas bag, such that the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is closed by the slipped-in part of the gas bag envelope by the internal pressure of the gas bag, or

(b) slips out a part of the gas bag envelope, which is located in the region of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice and is slipped into the gas bag, such that the previously closed at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is opened.

2. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas bag further comprises:

two part gas bags, the part gas bags being flow-connected to one another, and wherein the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is arranged between the part gas bags.

3. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is formed on an outer wall of the gas bag such that when the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is open, gas emerges from the gas bag.

4. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the other end of the at least one control band is fastened to the gas bag envelope in a region facing a vehicle occupant.

5. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the other end of the at least one control band is fastened in a lateral region of the gas bag envelope.

6. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a deflection device arranged on an inside of the gas bag envelope, the at least one control band being led over the deflection device.

7. The gas bag as claimed in claim 6, wherein the deflection device is fastened to the gas bag envelope in a region facing a vehicle occupant, and the other end of the at least one control band is fastened in a lateral region of the gas bag envelope.

8. The gas bag envelope as claimed in claim 6, wherein the deflection device is formed by a loop through which the at least one control band is drawn.

9. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one control band is connected at its other end to one end of at least two auxiliary control bands, the other end of the at least one control band being connected to the gas bag envelope, either directly or indirectly, via secondary bands or via deflection devices.

10. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
at least one further control band having one end and another end, the one end of the at least one further control band being attached in the region of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice at a point opposite the one end of the at least one control band.

11. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas bag envelope comprises a hose-shaped or blow pipe-shaped design in the region of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice.

12. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one control band is fastened at at least one point in a region between its one end and another end to the gas bag envelope by means of a fastening element, the fastening element being designed so as to release fastening when a predetermined internal pressure of the gas bag is reached.

13. The gas bag as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fastening element comprises a tear-open seam which connects the gas bag envelope and the at least one control band to one another.

14. The gas bag as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fastening element comprises a touch-and-close fastening which connects the gas bag envelope and the at least one control band to one another.

15. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas bag comprises a two-chamber side airbag with a pelvic part gas bag and with a thoracic part gas bag.

16. The gas bag as claimed in claim 15, wherein the thoracic part gas bag and the pelvic part gas bag are connected to one another by means of the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice.

17. The gas bag as claimed in claim 16, wherein the gas bag is arranged such that the pelvic part gas bag is inflated more quickly than the thoracic part gas bag, and wherein after the conclusion of a first phase of inflation of the gas bag, the outflow and/or overflow orifice is opened such that gas of the pelvic part gas bag can flow into the thoracic part gas bag.

18. The gas bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas bag further comprises two part gas bags, and the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is arranged to be activated in such a way that, in a first phase of inflation of the gas bag, the part gas bags are inflated uniformly, and after the conclusion of the first phase of inflation, the at least one outflow and/or overflow orifice is closed so that a different gas pressure can be formed in the two part gas bags.